

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A system providing information about an endoscope, comprising:

a history information obtaining unit obtaining information about a use history of an endoscope;

an estimating unit making an estimation of a secular change in the endoscope from its use start until a present time based on the obtained information, the information indicating a use time and the number of use times of the endoscope, and the number of occurrences of faults per unit the use time and the number of occurrences of faults per unit the number of use times of the endoscope; and

a displaying unit displaying a ratio of a result of the estimation to a degree of the secular change, which is preset for the endoscope.

2. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein  
the degree of the secular change, which is preset for the endoscope, is a degree at which maintenance is recommended to be performed for the endoscope.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein  
the information about the use history is stored in a scope storing unit comprised by the endoscope.

5. (Original) The system according to claim 4, wherein:  
the scope storing unit further stores scope identification information for identifying the endoscope; and

the system further comprises a use history storing unit storing information about a use history of each of a plurality of endoscopes in association with the scope identification information.

6. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein  
said displaying unit displays the ratio of the result of the estimation as a figure.

7. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein  
said displaying unit individually displays the ratio of the result of the estimation of a plurality of endoscopes for each of the plurality of endoscopes.

8. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein  
said displaying unit lists and displays the ratio of the result of the estimation of each of a plurality of endoscopes.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method providing information about an endoscope, comprising:

obtaining information about a use history of an endoscope;

making an estimation of a secular change in the endoscope from its use start until a present time based on the obtained information, the information indicating a use time and the number of use times of the endoscope, and the number of occurrences of faults per unit the use time and the number of occurrences of faults per unit the number of use times of the endoscope; and

displaying a ratio of a result of the estimation to a degree of the secular change, which is preset for the endoscope.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program, by being executed by a computer, for causing the computer to execute a process for providing information about an endoscope, the process comprising:

obtaining information about a use history of an endoscope;

making an estimation of a secular change in the endoscope from its use start until a present time based on the obtained information, the information indicating a use time and the number of use times of the endoscope, and the number of occurrences of faults per unit the use time and the number of occurrences of faults per unit the number of use times of the endoscope; and

displaying a ratio of a result of the estimation to a degree of the secular change, which is preset for the endoscope.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing a program, by being executed by a computer, for causing the computer to execute a process for providing information about an endoscope, the process comprising:

obtaining information about a use history of an endoscope;

making an estimation of a secular change in the endoscope from its use start until a present time based on the obtained information, the information indicating a use time and the number of use times of the endoscope, and the number of occurrences of faults per unit the use time and the number of occurrences of faults per unit the number of use times of the endoscope; and

displaying a ratio of a result of the estimation to a degree of the secular change, which is preset for the endoscope.

13. (Currently Amended) A system providing information about an endoscope, comprising:

history information obtaining means for obtaining information about a use history of an endoscope;

estimating means for making an estimation of a secular change in the endoscope from its use start until a present time based on the obtained information, the information indicating a use time and the number of use times of the endoscope, and the number of occurrences of faults per unit the use time and the number of occurrences of faults per unit the number of use times of the endoscope; and

displaying means for displaying a ratio of a result of the estimation to a degree of the secular change, which is preset for the endoscope.